

# THE KENTUCKY COLONEL

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## Patron Saint of the Hills

by Ann Fields

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THE POSTMAN KNOCKED on the door of the rambling old house at 722 West Main Street and said to the kindly gray-haired woman who answered: "I think this is for you, Miss Neville."

The envelope was addressed: "To the lady who looks after Blind Children, Lexington, Kentucky,"

She smiled at the postman: "Yes, this is for me." Then she opened the letter and read: "Dere lady me and Lu Arky is blind. Kin you all let us kum to the school for blind." It was signed Mr. Willard Brown.

After making inquiries, Miss Linda Neville sat down and wrote a letter, saying she would be delighted to have the Browns come to the school. A week later she received a note from the mountain postmaster stating that Mr. Brown and Lu Arky would arrive Tuesday. When she met the train she was surprised to find a small scrawny girl and a lanky boy of about 13.

"Are you Mr. Brown?" she asked. The boy drew himself up. "I'se Mr. Brown," he said with pride. "I makes all plans for Lu Arky and me."

For more than 40 years, Linda Neville of Lexington, Kentucky, has been taking people like Mr. Brown and Lu Arky into her home. For many years she went into the hills to seek out the mountain people with "troublin eyes." There is no form of transportation she hasn't used - a mule up stony creek beds, jolting wagons over flooded creeks, even the modern jeep.

Once she rode 30 miles in a wagon with four blind and semi-blind people from the hills to get them down to Lexington. "Once in the pouring rain," she recalls, "the wagon stuck and I had to guide my charges through the woods to the nearest home. I was young then and thought it was quite an experience - now it seems a mild thing to tell."

Nothing in the life of Linda Neville has been mild. Her whole life has been spent in servitude to others. There is hardly a reform law, educational advancement or charity cause in Kentucky that she has not supported in her 75 years. When she was awarded the Leslie Dana medal in 1944 by the St. Louis Society for the Blind, the citation read: "At least a thousand persons have been saved from the doom of darkness by her intercession."





For countless years to come thousands more who will never hear the name of Linda Neville will be saved from blindness due to the laws she championed in Kentucky, and due to the part she played in having five mountain hospitals erected by the U. S. Public Health Service.

Her work began by chance when the cultured young Bryn Mawr graduate attended a fashionable luncheon in Lexington. A pioneer settlement worker, also a guest, told Linda Neville about a girl of 18 who had gone blind; told of the stubborn struggle with which the girl had fought the disease.

The victim had tried herbs, bandages and "spittin' under-rocks," but had slowly gone blind. When settlement workers tried to teach her spinning and weaving, she had replied in a mood of dumb rebellion: "I don't want no larnin', if I can't see."

The worker concluded her story by saying: "The pity of it is that the girl's eyesight could probably have been saved at little cost, but no one knew where to take her - and there isn't even that much money at times."

Linda Neville got up and went home. She lived in a beautiful old house that had been in the family for decades. Her father taught Greek and Latin, and the two girls, Linda and Mary, had had the best advantages - travel, fine schools and prestige. She said to her sister: "I'm going up into the mountains to see what can be done."

This was when the wilderness was almost uncharted. Sitting on the front seat of a rented wagon, she passed tiny cabins with 10 to 15 children playing barefoot in the yard, on through Sore Heel Holler, past Poor Fork and Greasy, up through Cut-Shin and over Cow Creek. What she saw made her sick. Here were the poverty and hopelessness of the totally blind. These squalid and remote cabins were full of trachoma, a contagious disease but not a fatal one if caught in time.

DEPRESSING THOUGHTS were in Linda Neville's mind one night in 1908 as she sat on the porch of the settlement house at Hindman, Kentucky, 45 miles from the nearest railroad. As she sat pondering, a young man came feeling his way to the door. He was about 25, healthy and strong, but totally blind. He said he had heard about "the folks as go on the railroad to be healed," so he had sold his banjo and wanted to leave.

From that night onward, Linda Neville has fought the fight of the blind in the hills. She has spent a considerable fortune of her own; has saved literally thousands of eyes; has expended her energy even beyond the physical hardships she has undergone to lobby for bills of every nature that would improve the lot of the helpless. She is no doctor or trained social worker, yet she speaks with doctors in their own terms. And there is little that has been written on the subject of eyes and blindness that she has not absorbed.





Her campaign of education can hardly be equaled in fervor. She has lobbied, written bills, made speeches, called congressmen, badgered the U.S. Public Health Service and carried on a continuous correspondence with the Red Cross. In her mind something had to be done. She has done it.

In the beginning it was a heartbreaking task. Linda Neville was one woman, fighting thousands of cases of blindness in an almost primitive wilderness.

"I never dreamed that night on the porch that I was going into something which would last my lifetime," she says. "I had thought to work a few weeks and perhaps secure assistance from the Public Health Service, but the job was too big ever to let go. And besides," she smiles, "I have never finished it."

She began her work by returning to the large 25 room house that was her home and dividing it to accommodate children until she could somehow secure hospital beds for them. Then she began a money-raising campaign. She didn't like asking people for money, but when one friend gave her \$25, she took it to the bank and started her Mountain Fund.

Having scored once, she renewed her efforts, and even though the Fund has never had more than a few thousand dollars in any one year, Linda Neville has worked miracles with it. She induced several hospitals and clinics to set aside a certain number of beds for her patients. Tirelessly she made her forays into the hills to find her patients, and just as tirelessly went from hospital to hospital to place them where they could get the care they needed.

Finally she persuaded some Bluegrass doctors to go with her into the mountains to hold clinics. On the strength of what they reported, the Kentucky Medical Association in 1912 asked the Public Health Service to make a survey. It found 33,000 cases of trachoma in 35 sparsely settled counties. Miss Neville then began her campaign to have hospitals built in these areas, and ultimately five were established in eastern and western Kentucky.

The early clinics held in the mountains were almost a one-woman business. Linda Neville did not have nurses to help, nor did she have medical equipment. That meant she must go days in advance to have everything arranged, as well as find the people who needed treatment and inform them of the arrival of the "brought-on doctors and nurses."

Far up in the gaps and hollers, Miss Neville was considered "plum common" - the flattering opposite of "plum stuck up." As she rode her mule over solitary trails seeking people with the "sufferin eyes," she never left until she had a promise that "apt as not" they'd be there. And apt as not they were. For the love and confidence they





placed in Linda Neville was close to worship. Even though their blindness might be caused by the "judgment of the Lord," just so Miss Neville might be a messenger from God to bring them sight.

The clinics were usually held in the Courthouse. On the day of the doctor's arrival, Miss Neville would be there hours in advance, sterilizing instruments and encouraging those who waited outside, explaining to them that if a person had "troubled eyes" they must be careful since trachoma was a "catching disease." The linens, sheets and bandages almost always came from Miss Neville's own home.

Since those early days, Linda Neville has secured the cooperation of several hospitals in Lexington and Louisville to help with free beds, and few doctors have sent her bills in 40 years. However, there has never been enough money or beds to go around. Even with the help which the State Legislature gave in 1934 to supplement the Mountain Fund, it is still the persistence of the "managin' motherly woman" that performs near miracles with hundreds of cases.

One of the greatest burdens Miss Neville has to bear is the trust and love the mountain people display for her. All of those who "ride the railroads out of the mountains" have implicit faith in Miss Neville's ability to work wonders. Fathers or mothers faithfully sign any papers she presents and place their children confidently in her hands. They ask no questions. It is these people whose hearts she holds in her keeping.

One of Miss Neville's typical cases concerns Claude, age 13, who stayed at her home for three weeks while she faithfully escorted him each day for his treatments, leading him in and out of offices and up and down stairs until one day Claude opened his eyes and saw light for the first time. The boy's astonishment was heart-rending. No one could contain him. He dashed madly about, talking wildly of all the things he had heard about but never seen, like "them little old birds," and begging Miss Neville not to tell anyone he was coming home because he wanted to walk the 11 miles over the trail and surprise everybody.

When at last the time came for him to leave, it was near Christmas. Miss Neville asked: "Claude, what are you going to do on Christmas Day?" He replied proudly: "I was always just a-sittin in the chimney corner before, but this year I'm a-goin to shoot me some rabbits."

Linda Neville has always given her time and energy to help promote or write any bill for the betterment of her people. Two of the laws in which she has taken particular interest strike at the cause of blindness and have aided greatly in cutting down its prevalence. The first, passed in 1914, requires that all babies born with diseased eyes be reported at once to the Board of Health. The second, passed in 1938, requires health certificates with every marriage license.



One of the greatest joys of Miss Neville's life is "her son" David, who was brought to her, blind, when he was only seven days old. His mother had died at his birth and his father was unable to care for him. Miss Neville continued to keep him in her home, nursing and caring for him. By the time he was eight months old she had decided to keep him, although the decision was a difficult one. She was getting along in years and worried sometimes about what would happen to David when she passed on. She worried, too, about his being a sad and unhappy child - "so different from other children."

But Miss Neville worried in vain. David is 12 now, and there is no happier child. Never having known sight, he doesn't realize the tragedy of blindness. He romps around the big house, all over the huge lawn, and out and down his block. His devotion to "his mother" is a beautiful thing.

Today, she and David live in the old family house. Linda Neville has given almost all her personal wealth to the cause for which she has fought. For 35 years, she never received a penny, personally, for any of her work. Her hair is white, her step slowed somewhat, but her energy is unflagging. She still works night and day, and has never been known to turn down anyone.

Her home looks like an auction sale for discarded toys. The front hall alone contains bicycles, tricycles, dolls, roller skates, footballs and teddy bears "for her children." In the past few years, to supplement her income, she has rented rooms to two young couples, and their children added to her children make the old house sound like a nursery. To add to the confusion, the phone rings constantly as doctors and settlement workers call to ask Miss Neville for information on a particular case.

She is brisk and competent, and dispatches cases with the ease of a veteran. Scattered throughout her house are books with personal records of her work. They contain more than 2,000 case histories.

In writing an account of the Dana Medal award, Dr. P. E. Blackerby said of Miss Neville: "Many adults suffering from trachoma, glaucoma and cataracts, unable to secure relief for themselves, have found in Miss Neville a patron saint ready and anxious to bring them under the healing hands of capable doctors."

An even more fitting tribute to her was paid when Linda Neville received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion from the University of Kentucky. Engraved on the medallion were these words: "And never was anything seen so artistic as a beautiful life."





# H O N O R   R O L L

6.

## Second Six Weeks

Elsie Willard  
Flonnie Howard  
Alice Napier  
Raymond Seaver  
David Murrell  
Ben Robinson  
Claudia Dotson  
Louise Rogers  
Alma Jean White  
Imogene Cheesman  
Naomi Overby

Joan Britt  
Billie Jean Clark  
Betty Jean Greene  
Magdeline Parsons  
Anna Rose Ratliff  
Jessie D. Brown  
Oral Miller  
Sue Cochran  
Arthur Johnson  
Joanna Pennington

These students had an average of "B" or better for the second six weeks. Following the custom set after the first six-weeks' marking period, these boys and girls continue to prepare their work independently, for they need not report to study hall; or, if they wish to come, they have permission to leave when their work is finished.

The following students missed the Honor Roll by a few percentage points:

Manis Castle  
Raymond Randles  
Lucille Huddleston  
Richard McDowell

Beverly Damal  
Curtis Crum  
Herman Davis  
Jack Perry

\* \* \*

## Third Six Weeks

Jessie D. Brown  
Manis Castle  
Imogene Cheesman  
Anna Sue Cochran  
Curtis Crum  
Beverly Damal  
Claudia Dotson  
Betty Jean Greene  
Amon Greer  
Flonnie Howard  
Arthur Johnson  
Oral Miller

David Murrell  
Richard McDowell  
Alice Napier  
Naomi Overby  
Joanna Pennington  
Anna Rose Ratliff  
Louise Rogers  
Ben Robinson  
Raymond Seaver  
Evelyn Willard  
Elsie Willard

\* \* \*

The following students have the distinction of being on the Honor Roll all three marking periods:

Jessie D. Brown  
Imogene Cheesman  
Anna Sue Cochran  
Claudia Dotson  
Oral Miller

Alice Napier  
Naomi Overby  
Joanna Pennington  
Louise Rogers





## WHAT'S WHAT AND WHO'S WHO

### IN THE K. S. B. NEWS

January 3 found everyone just recovering from a blissful Christmas vacation, probably ended with a New Year's Eve party which lasted into the wee hours of the morning. After recuperation was complete, students in the first ten grades breezed along as before, without much thought of the future, while the juniors and seniors, who attend public schools, anticipated with some misgivings the inevitable change in their schedule which would come with the turn of the semesters.

Mr. Joseph Glus, our new and efficient shop teacher, came to us at the beginning of the second semester. He was graduated from a vocational school in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and later attended California University, Pennsylvania. Besides teaching here, he is a student at the University of Louisville. It could be the southern hospitality, but we believe it is his versatile personality which makes him declare that he is very happy here.

On January 21, the Chorus Club had its first big get-together of the new year. The Blue Room was crowded, and the members of the program committee looked a little worried as "bunko", a completely new game to the club members, was introduced. Before the first round was over, however, the excitement was at its peak, and did not lax until ten o'clock when refreshments were served. By that time, everyone had worked up a terrific appetite. When it was time to say goodnight, members of the program committee were smiling; for all through the crowd was heard, "Why don't we do this more often?"

Since Christmas the new juke box has not been neglected. Every two weeks, if nothing else has been planned, a group of students gather in the auditorium for a juke box party.

What is it about a valentine dance that puts a sparkle in the eye and makes the heart beat faster? What is it that makes the ordinary music seem especially sweet, and the gay decorations in the dance hall seem beautiful? Could it be that "Cupid" has shot one of his famous arrows through the heart of your partner -- or is it your heart? Perhaps you have an answer to these questions, but we haven't. We can only assure you that on February 12, when we had our annual valentine dance, these conditions were not lacking. At the half-way mark in the dance, Herman Davis and Betty Jean Greene, King and Queen of Hearts, led their gaily-dressed court in the grand march. After this, there was more dancing, a few games, and last but by no means least important, refreshments. A groan



went up from the crowd when our chaperon called, "Last dance comin' up." After this last dance, everybody unwillingly, but obediently, kissed goodbye -- a delightful evening!

A few weeks ago our Dramatic Club received a gift of seven season tickets to the Little Theater presentations at the University of Louisville. On February 1, the juniors and seniors who are members of the club went to see the first play, "Beside Myself", by Mildred Summit. It was a delightful play, and there was not a dull moment in the entire evening.

On February 19, five of the high school girls were most fortunate in receiving tickets to the famous stage show, "Show Boat". After hearing songs from this show for years, it was no less than a dream come true to be privileged to see the whole performance. For days afterwards, those girls went around singing "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine", "He's Just My Bill", and "Make Believe".

We wish to share the happiness of one of the former members of the "Colonel" staff with our readers. Miss Peggy Vallandigham, who was graduated from high school two years ago and is now a sophomore at the University of Louisville, was married to Sergeant Frank Peak of the Air Corps on January 18. From the "Colonel" staff to you, good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peak.

Speaking of weddings! One can still almost hear the wedding bells which rang for Miss Jean Kesler and Mr. Robert Preston. They were married on March 12 in the Bagdad Baptist Church. It is a starry-eyed Mrs. Preston who now tells us that she will finish out the term here. Her plans for the more distant future are yet indefinite.

Had you been wandering through the halls on February 21, and seen the faces of both faculty and students, you probably would have thought, "Everyone looks as if he has just lost his best friend." For many, this was almost the case; for on the night before, Miss Ethlyn Wilson, the housemother of the older girls, was taken to the hospital after a severe fall received while clearing the Blue Room of the last traces of the day's activities. X-rays revealed a broken hip, and two days after entering the hospital Miss Wilson underwent an operation. She is recovering rapidly, but will not return to her work here this term. Although it is a long time off, we are already looking forward to September when we will have her back with us again.





We were very fortunate in getting as a substitute, Mrs. Stella Courtney, a competent and motherly woman who has worked for several years in our dining room. Already, the girls have accepted Mrs. Courtney, and most of them have learned to love her in the short time she has been with us.

Anna Sue Cochran  
Joanna Pennington  
11th Grade

## NEWS FROM PRIMARY

### DEPARTMENT

#### THE KINDERGARTEN

It is so much fun to play with our new jingle-bell ball. It is easy to bounce. We play many games with it.

Our three new red wagons are used every day. One child pulls, one rides, and another pushes. Then we change places. We have a good time.

\* \* \*

#### SECOND GRADE

The second grade class made up some jingles recently. Some of them are very interesting. They are about well-known things in the school. Here are a few of them:

I like to ride on the merry-go-round  
Because it makes a musical sound.

B. T. Kimbrough

See me read my book  
Down by the brook.

Shirley Lane  
B. T. Kimbrough

When I swing,  
I like to sing.

Udell Useen

\* \* \*





T H E M U S I C B O X

We are greatly indebted to the young musicians who so graciously come out to school to entertain us. For years we have had the privilege of hearing many of their recitals, which is an advantage to our students, many of whom take music. We find enjoyment as well as educational value in these recitals.

On January 18, Miss Juanita Elliott, a student at the School of Music at the Baptist Seminary, gave an organ recital in our school auditorium. Miss Elliott is a talented young lady, and everyone enjoyed the program tremendously.

On February 18, Mr. Lindsey Merrill, violinist, and Mrs. Martha Lynn Merrill, accompanist, appeared in a recital which was also held here at school. Mr. Merrill is a pupil of Mr. Edwin Ideler, who is concert master of the Louisville Philharmonic/Orchestra. His performance was excellent, and even those who do not ordinarily listen to classical music were forced to admit that they enjoyed it.

Every year the Chamber Music Society of Louisville makes it possible for some of the world's most outstanding artists to appear in this city. These concerts are held at the Little Playhouse on the campus of the University of Louisville. A few of the students were able to hear the concerts for this season. The first one we attended, on January 18, featured the Schneider Piano Quartet. The Budapest String Quartet appeared on February 5.

We have been attending the high school matinee performances of the Louisville Philharmonic Orchestra. The first concert we heard in this series was given on December 1, and the last one will be presented on March 30.

On December 15, at the Memorial Auditorium, the Louisville Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus presented the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah". It was magnificent. This work is familiar to most people, but even the constant repetition takes away none of its beauty.

On February 9 we attended a matinee performance of the Louisville Philharmonic Orchestra with Miss George Henry as guest soloist. Although Miss Henry is quite young, she is an accomplished musician, and her performance of the Piano Concerto in A Minor was beautiful.

When Horace Heidt and his show appeared in Louisville last month a whole bus load of our students attended the program as his guests. During the show Mr. Langan was introduced and presented Heidt with a citation written in Braille, which was read to the audience of ten thousand by Pierce Knox.



In the next issue information will be available about the spring recital and commencement.

Imogene Cheesman  
12th Grade

### SCOUT NEWS

On Thursday evening, February 10, all the Scouts of Troop 10 took part in a big treasure hunt. The winning patrol, the Seniors, received a box of candy bars. Everyone sure had a lot of fun.

Like most scouts throughout the nation, the scouts of the K. S. B. also celebrated Boy Scout Week. A show window at the Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind was decorated in sections to show what the past scouts had won and the progress that the new scouts had made. Also, each boy of the Former Blue Grass Patrol wore the Scout uniform one day during this week. This Blue Grass Patrol, you will remember, was the name given to the scouts selected from all the K. S. B. patrols who went to the Boy Scout Camp in Philadelphia.

It has been announced that if everything works out as planned six of the boys who have not had an opportunity to go to the athletic meets will have the privilege of going to Philadelphia to the Scout Jamboree. This will be held late in April, and will be sponsored by the Overbrook School for the Blind.

Jerry Cameron  
9th Grade

### S P O R T S

Several new faces were seen around the wrestling mat as the Kentucky squad started training for its first match of the season. There were about twelve boys on the squad this year.

The first match on our schedule was with the West Virginia School for the Blind. The two teams met at Charleston, West Virginia, on February 5. West Virginia was the victor by the score of 20 to 10.

Three weeks later the inaugural Kentucky Invitational Wrestling Tournament was held here at Louisville. The schools entered were Maryland, Arkansas, and Kentucky. At the end of the semi-finals Arkansas had 12 points, Maryland had 10 points, and Kentucky had only 6 points. Most of the Kentucky enthusiasts thought that their cause was lost. In the finals Kentucky started to roll, and when the meet was over Kentucky had 37 points. Arkansas finished with 34 points and Maryland had 32.





Determined not to end on the bottom of the E.A.A.B. Tournament as it had for the last two years, Kentucky traveled to Philadelphia on March 4. When the tournament had ended we had won a fourth-place tie with Overbrook.

Our team should be just as strong next year as this year because we are losing only two wrestlers due to graduation. Several rookies are coming up and they should be good by next season. Everyone was extremely pleased by the showing of Ben Robinson, our rookie 145 wrestler. He finished second in the E.A.A.B. Tournament at Philadelphia. We are expecting great things from Ben next year. Two other promising boys are Bill Stanley and Kenneth Howard.

Now that wrestling is over for the year everyone's attention is changing to track. We shall have every member of last year's team back this year. As well as the veterans of the team, we expect great things from our boys who are just getting started.

Oral Miller  
10th Grade

### T H E M E R R Y M A K E R S

The Merry-makers have had two big events since Thanksgiving. We went Christmas caroling the Thursday before Christmas. We had a good time even though it was rather cold.

On Sunday, March 13, we had a social in the Blue Room. We invited the senior girls, Miss Schneider, Miss Long, and Mrs. Courtney. We played some new games, and then we served refreshments. We all enjoyed the afternoon.

We have many more plans to carry out before the close of the year. If every member continues to cooperate as wonderfully as in the past, the future of the Merry-makers will be very bright. We all want our club to continue and to grow, so let's all help.

Louise Rogers  
8th Grade



THE POETS' CORNERPOOR HENRY!

Old Henry does not wish to run --  
 He says that he is tired,  
 His parts are old and rickety,  
 His spark plugs are not wired.

His wheels are bad, his doors are off;  
 He coughs and sputters and spits.  
 Throw him in the junk yard, for  
 His motor never hits.

Oral Miller  
 10th Grade

\* \* \*

LIMERICK

There was once an old dog named Bill  
 Who was hunting high up on a hill.  
 He was chasing a rabbit,  
 Which wasn't his habit.  
 He got lost and is hunting there still.

Beverly Damal  
 10th Grade

\* \* \*

SPRING

The birds are singing sweetly,  
 The sun is shining bright,  
 And we wait and long  
 Until the winter's gone,  
 For spring to come in sight.

We know the winter's over  
 When flowers push through the ground;  
 And the birds are singing gaily,  
 Because spring is coming 'round.

James Rader  
 7th Grade





I WISH I WERE A LITTLE DOG

I wish I were a little dog,  
 I would not have to worry,  
 The school bells would not bother me,  
 I'd never have to hurry.

My food would cost me nothing,  
 And that'd be all right;  
 I'd get to sleep the whole day long,  
 And bark all through the night.

I'd never have to make my bed,  
 I'd have nothing to do;  
 I'd like to be a little dog --  
 Now tell me, wouldn't you?

Robert Johnson  
 9th Grade

A SURPRISE

## A Short Short Story

One day as I was sitting out on the lawn I was thinking how wonderful it would be to take a trip to one of the planets to see how beautiful or queer it might be.

A minute later, or it seemed as if it had been that long, I was astonished to find that I was in something that looked like an oddly-shaped machine, taking me higher and higher into the air.

"Do you like your ride?" a voice asked.

Frightened, I answered, "I would like it better if I knew where I was going."

"Didn't you say that you would like to go up to a planet?"

"Yes, I did, but how can I be sure that that is where you are taking me?"

"Look for yourself; we are landing."

"Oh, how beautiful everything looks," I said, as I explored the place; but then I heard a rumbling sound and it seemed that the earth was falling. Suddenly, I too was falling out into space! I yelled but that did not help, for I just kept falling faster and faster, but to my surprise I awoke and found that I had only been dreaming.

Donald Thomas  
 7th Grade



### AMERICA, A DREAM COME TRUE

Through the course of time, there have been many wonderful, beautiful, and even unbelievable dreams to come true; but never yet has there been one realized -- nor can there ever be one -- that is more beautiful or quite so sacred as that of our land, America. America has been a haven of rest for the weary, an endless road of success for the ambitious, a sacred place of worship for the pious, and a wonderland of amusement for the care-free. It has caused its people to laugh and rejoice; again, it has often brought heartache and despondency to countless numbers. It has better served to teach the lesson of loyalty and bravery than any other one thing I know; for there is nothing that could more quickly cause a man willingly to lay down his life than loyalty to his country. Now, I ask, "Has there ever been a more perfect example of a dream come true than this of our America?"

Was it merely fate that our country should be so blessed, or was it because of the fervent hopes of individuals and groups of people who had dreams which they transferred into ambitions? You may not agree, but I believe it was the latter.

Can't you picture Columbus as a boy, with a desire that only a child can have, wistfully watching the ships go out to sea? That childish fancy of his never ceased; instead, it seemed to grow with every passing year. Then, finally he stopped dreaming his plans to go to sea and started making them. He soon learned, however, that this was much harder than dreaming, for he came upon many difficulties. Even his own country believed his theory of the world's being round was ridiculous and refused to furnish, to a person they believed to be a lunatic, a fleet which would probably be destroyed at sea. Queen Isabella of Spain learned of Columbus' theory and announced that she had confidence in it and would furnish him with a fleet. Then, the dawn began to show through the darkness. Columbus still had a rugged road to travel, but he came safely to its end, America. Could this have been fate? Certainly not. It was the fruition of the burning desire and the sincere hope of a man who had faith in his dream, and who, because of that faith, could go ever onward.

Less than a century and a half later than Columbus' time, there was a group of people who had a dream. This group, known as the Pilgrims, dreamed of a land where they could love and worship as they pleased. When they secured from the London Company passage on the Mayflower, they saw their dream being realized. They were on their way to a new country, a place where they could worship





It was a beautiful dream, but they went on. They were in God and in themselves and in the "Door of Opportunity".

There were a group of men who dreamed of a free and independent nation. These men wrote the "Declaration of Independence". They must have spent many hours in writing the document which pronounces America an independent nation.

These things mentioned here, it causes me to wonder at all the things which have helped this nation what she is. Let's do our part for this nation of ours, so that in generations to come people will say that America is the most beautiful dream that ever came true.

Anna Sue Cochran  
11th Grade

### THE IMPORTANCE OF PRINTING IN A DEMOCRACY

Man had matured in song and folk tale long before he began writing on stone tablets. There is no way in which we can estimate how much of it was lost when it was recorded. Fortunately for us writing has preserved and developed every form of knowledge. From the walls of the cave man, historians have pieced together the story of these primitive people. By slow progress man's mode of expression has come from writing on skins through the hieroglyphs of the Egyptians, through the cuneiform of the Assyrians, through the simple alphabet of the Sumerians, and on with many changes and improvements until we reach the manifold presses that turn out the marvelous achievement in the world's news and literature.

Printing is closely in importance to government and education constitutes a strong factor in the development of civilization. Never before have schools, colleges, universities and adult education so effectively brought from the errors of the past into new ways of achievement. From a meager beginning with a few books of any consequence and very few other literature, the invention of printing has done much in the development of our democratic way of living.

The importance of magazines and newspapers is important and is most forcefully each hour of the day.



Not only the news of our local community, but the important happenings all over the world are in our hands. We may read, discuss, ponder, or decide weighty questions because we are in a free country. We may read for ourselves the thoughts and expressions of our scientists, scholars, and law-makers.

Our reading matter is made more interesting and more educational with the use of maps. From the road maps given us at service stations, to the large atlases adorning the walls of our schools and colleges, we obtain a world of worthwhile information.

With the advance of civilization we have gained untold religious freedom. In the early days the clergy were the only people who were allowed to handle the Bible. This sacred Book, hand-scribed by the monks, took many years of patient labor. Printing unlocked the door to this treasure chest. He who wished might read for himself.

Because we have an abundance of literature concerning the works of our government, a citizen need not depend upon the spoken word of someone else, but may draw his own conclusions concerning the officials he thinks best to lead our democracy.

The printed ballot, placed in the hands of each voter, gives him the right to express his desires at the polls.

With the coming of printing, poets had the satisfaction of knowing that their beautiful thoughts would be preserved. The hero knew his brave deeds would live after him; the scientist believed that his efforts and the results of them would be written on the printed pages; and the minister was assured that the Bible and other holy writ would live forever.

Freedom of the press means to be able to say what you think and have that thought passed on to others through the columns of the daily newspaper. Many wrongs may be righted, many an unsung hero may be given his just reward.

Thus in this democratic land of ours, the invention of a modest German, John Gutenberg, has made it possible for our people to teach democracy in all of its phases to all people regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us say with Angelo Patri, "Ahead are the children of the next generation. We are to carry to them the Spirit of America. We must show them what went before, what lies ahead. We must lead them to seek through the





dimmet of centuries, a gleaming light of silver white. It is the line of the Crusaders; steady, straight and strong, the quest of the Holy Grail, the search for freedom."

Mittie Mae Hack  
12th Grade.

#### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this writing it is impossible to announce anything definite on our proposed building program for two student cottages and a gymnasium. It has been a disappointment to the Advisory Board and the Superintendent that nine months after the General Assembly made millions of dollars available for capital improvement to hospitals, schools, and colleges, that our request for new buildings has not as yet been considered. All too frequently in the past, in this state and in other states, the school for the blind has been neglected in the allotment of necessary funds for adequate operation and plant improvement. It is unfortunate that more state officials fail to take the time to familiarize themselves with the program of special education offered by our school. To date only one member of the Building Commission has been interested enough to visit our school. After a thorough survey of the plant and facilities he left convinced of the needs of the school. Fortunately, more interest is being evidenced in some of our neighboring states, which may help enlighten our state authorities. Mississippi is in the process of completing an entirely new school for the blind, and more recently, Tennessee has purchased a tract of over one hundred acres of land outside of Nashville and appropriated two million dollars for a new school for the blind. A member of the School Planning Division from Tennessee recently visited our school to benefit from the planning we have done to date on our new buildings. Cottages similar to those we have designed are to be incorporated in the new Tennessee School! Perhaps we will be able to drive down to Nashville next year and see what our school might have looked like!

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The new BRAILLE COOKBOOK compiled and edited by Miss Marjorie Hooper and Mrs. Paul J. Langan is receiving a tremendous response from blind homemakers. To date more than twelve hundred copies have been distributed by the American Printing House free to housewives and blind individuals. The wide circulation of this book justifies the need of such an aid to the blind woman who enjoys cooking, and should be a source of great satisfaction to the anonymous person who provided the funds to make this project possible.

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A limited number of table model radios are available for distribution through the school to the adult blind. If you do not have a radio, or know of a deserving adult who needs one, address your request to the Superintendent. The radios are gifts of the American Foundation.

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In the past four years we have inaugurated athletic competition with twelve other schools for the blind in track and wrestling. This month two new schools will be added to the list with the appearance here of Illinois and Missouri for a track meet with our boys. This opportunity of inter-school visitation is most healthy for our students and provides a number of benefits to those earning the privilege of making the trips to other schools. It also entails a big responsibility on the students to their host school. Visiting groups always carry with them the teaching and training in conduct, manner, and behavior provided by their school programs. We recently experienced good evidence of this when the wrestling teams from Arkansas and Maryland were our guests for a week-end. These young men were perfect examples of good guests--the kind you always welcome back. We hope that as our own boys travel to other schools that their conduct will leave a marked favorable impression on their hosts.

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This is the time of the school year when thoughts begin to turn to the bigger things to happen after June. Plans, and arrangements are already being made for the future of the members of our senior class. Some few years ago guidance conferences for seniors were an unheard of procedure. Today great stress is placed upon evaluating the student's scholastic record and aptitude with his personal desire for a college career or a job. Sometimes it is the unpleasant duty of the school administrator to frankly tell a student or his parents that college is not for him. Certainly a Superintendent would be failing in one of his most sacred duties to ill-advise a student who has had his heart set on going to college. However, all high school students do not go to college, and some feel that only a percentage of those who do should be there. To send a student to college who is unfit for higher study would certainly build false hopes in the youngster's own estimation of his ability, which might later affect his whole life by failure. With the advice and experience of our Vocational Rehabilitation Placement Specialist we hope to be able to solve the placement of our students in jobs for which they are best fitted. This is not always an easy task, especially now when jobs are becoming more scarce. However, deserving hard workers never seem to be placement problems. Fortunately in our system of free enterprisc, there always seems to be room for one







more good worker in any field of endeavor. Students sometimes fail to realize the importance of this while they are in school and do not put forth their best efforts in everything they undertake. A rude awakening is the lot of such a youngster when he first attempts to get a job competing with sighted jobholders. Foremen and supervisors soon dispose of the non-workers and the non-producers, blind or sighted. Probably the most important one thing our students can learn in school prior to graduation would be this hard fact of life. Only the fullest application of a student's ability in school can overcome any tendency to loaf and loiter on the job.

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April 15 - 18---Easter Vacation

April 23---Triangular Track Meet, here; Illinois-Missouri-Kentucky.

April 29 - 30---Scout Jamboree--Treasure Island, Pennsylvania.

June 2---Girls' High Commencement

June 8---Male High Commencement

June 9---COMMENCEMENT, 8 P.M.

June 10---Going Home Day

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